Appl. No. 09/963,848
Amdt. dated September 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 23, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-90 are pending, with claims 91-95 having been previously canceled. The claims have been amended as noted above. Re-examination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

A number of claims have been withdrawn pursuant to an Election of Species Requirement. The Examiner has identified claim 1 as being generic. In view of the allowability of claim 1, as discussed below, Applicants believe that all presently pending claims should be examined and are in fact allowable.

The objection to claim 1 has been overcome by amending the claim as suggested by the Examiner.

The indefiniteness rejections of claims 20 and 21 have been overcome by amending each claim as suggested by the Examiner.

The rejection of claims 35 and 37-41 for indefiniteness has been overcome by clarifying that the "inner member" and "outer member" previously referred to in these claims are in fact the same as the adjacent layers referred to in claim 1. Thus, it is believed that the claims are sufficiently definite and requested that the rejection be withdrawn.
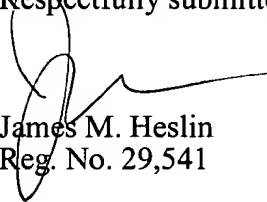
The rejection for obviousness-type double patenting has been overcome by submitting a Terminal Disclaimer over commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,695,760, herewith.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that objections and rejections have been overcome and that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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